

AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

1-9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously Presented) A method of preventing passage of embolic material from a left atrial appendage of a patient, comprising:

delivering a plurality of anchors of the type having a tocar section and at least one tissue retention barb to a location adjacent an opening of the left atrial appendage using a delivery catheter;

delivering the anchors into tissue surrounding the opening of the atrial appendage; and

removing the delivery catheter, wherein the anchors remain engaged in the tissue surrounding the opening following removal of the delivery catheter.

11. (Original) The method of Claim 10, wherein delivering the anchors into tissue surrounding the opening of the atrial appendage secures a patch across the opening.

12. (Original) The method of Claim 10, wherein the anchors are delivered transluminally.

13. (Original) The method of Claim 10, comprising delivering at least three anchors to surround the opening.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of closing an opening in a patient, comprising:

providing a first tissue engagement structure of the type having a tissue retention barb and a second tissue engagement structure of the type having a tissue retention barb, each of said tissue engagement structures being connected to a suture, at least one of the tissue engagement structures being slideable relative to said suture;

delivering the tissue engagement structures to the opening using a delivery catheter;

engaging the tissue engagement structures with tissue adjacent the opening;

sliding the first tissue engagement structure relative to the second tissue engagement structure along the suture to close the opening; and

removing the delivery catheter from the patient, wherein the tissue engagement structures remain engaged with the tissue adjacent the opening following removal of the delivery catheter.

15. (Original) The method of Claim 14, further comprising advancing a retention structure along the suture to close the opening.

16. (Original) The method of Claim 14, wherein the tissue engagement structures penetrate tissue.

17. (Original) The method of Claim 14, wherein the tissue engagement structures engage the tissue on opposite sides of the opening.

18. (Original) The method of Claim 14, wherein the tissue engagement structures engage the tissue inside the opening.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Original) The method of Claim 14, wherein the tissue engagement structures are anchors.